165. Grant of proper representation to the unrepre backward communities in the public service in representative institutions.

ter and nature Cutcherry or stion you have ters on which

MR. M. K. GOVINDAN (*Member, Nominated*) sai ntlemen like the existing rules of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, onl hings with- sons were competent to vote and to be elected as members ters which land-tax of not less than Rs. 50 per annum. This was a qualification and it resulted in the exclusion of many of the and depressed classes from voting at the elections and from advance- members of the Assembly. The Sri Mulam Popular Assemby in effect an assembly not of the poor but of the rich. The rules Group be suitably modified so as to throw open the Assembly to all cl med- people, both rich and poor. also

The rules of the Legislative Council were also exclusive thoughuca- in the same measure. It was the direct result of these rules that m, Ezhavas could not hold their own against other communities in elecies to the Council. These rules should therefore be modified and suffra should be granted to every tax-payer, be the amount of the tax he pa ever so small,

So far as the public service was concerned, unrepresented and poorly represented communities should be given equal representation with other communities.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govindan, there are bound to be inequalities in any system of franchise which is based on a property or educational qualification. There are several forms of elective principles such as proportional representation, communal representation, election by electoral colleges, and so on. Not one of these is suitable to the conditions of Travancore and the present one has been adopted since it is the least defective. It does not operate so badly when we realise that there are correctives which may be applied by a system of n tions in addition to the system of elections and I do not think that the vas have any reason to complain that they have not been adequately represented so far as the Council is concerned. In the Assembly the thing which counts is, the knowledge, experience and the respect that the representative commands and also his personality. I think one half of the number of good representatives is sometimes much better than double the number of indifferent representatives. So, on the whole, I think it works out fairly, and I am sure that as people get more and more experience in exercising their electoral right in Travancore a system will evolve when everybody will be content.

166. Desirability of Government exercising stricter scrutiny over the disposal of applications for appointment from qualified members of the unrepresented classes.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the policy adopted by Government in regard to appointments in the public service was a ve praise-worthy one. This policy was being closely adhered to

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by them so far as appointments made directly by them were concerned. But heads of departments and subordinate officers were not faithful to this policy in the exercise of the powers of appointment which they themselves possessed. It was not rare to hear a head of a department exhorting a person about the traditional occupations of his caste etc., when he went to him in search of an appointment. Such exhortations were nothing but insincere. An appointment in the public service was a coveted possession not alone because it supplied a means of livelihood, but also because it had a regenerating influence upon the person concerned from whom it spread on to the section of the public to which he belonged. It imparted to the individual and to his community a sense of self-respect. Hence it was that the public service was so much prized by the backward communities. In the interests of these communities therefore and ultimately of the country, the members thereof should be freely entertained in the Government service. The Education Department deserved special reference in this connection. The teacher had more influence on society for good than the holders of any other appointment. Hence as many persons as possible who belonged to the depressed classes should be entertained as teachers in the Education Department.

Such representations often met with the answer that appointments made on the principle of communal representation would tell upon the efficient working of the department concerned. This was an idle plea. Man to man there was not such a very wide gulf parting a member of the depressed classes from another belonging to the so-called higher classes. Efficiency rested more on environment than on heredity.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nilakantan, I shall discuss with the Director of Public Instruction the possibility of larger employment of the unrepresented classes in the Education Department.

167. Communal grievances and the means of remedying them.

MR. KRISHNAN KRISHNA PANICKER (*Member, Nominated*) said that one of the most effective means of securing the up-lift of the depressed and backward classes was the encouragement of education among them. In order to induce them to freely take to education Government had instituted a system of fee-concessions. But the communities concerned were not deriving all the benefit that they should from these fee-concessions. The reason was the absence of representatives of these communities on the committees for the grant of fee-concessions. These communities should be allowed to have their representatives on the fee-concession committees.

All the schools in the State should be thrown open to all communities. There were 13 schools at present to which non-caste Hindus had no admission. At Trivandrum itself, there was, inside the Fort, a girls' school which was not open to the depressed classes. This was very regretable.

Due encouragement should be granted to the depressed classes in the public service. There were several qualified young men belonging

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